GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:211
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2007
TEA GARDENS
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tea gardens and their production during each of the last three years;

(b) the nature of problems affecting the tea gardens and its production thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a Special Purpose Tea Fund to rejuvenate tea production, setting up of processing units and provide subsidy to this sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which this Fund is likely to be set up?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) : There are approximately 1.29 lakh tea gardens in the country. The production of tea in the country during last three years is as under:

Year	Production (in Million Kgs.)
2003-04	878.65
2004-05	906.84
2005-06	930.85
2006-07@ (April-December)	857.94

@ Estimated.

(b) to (e) : The Indian tea industry is mainly affected by long-term problems like old age of the plantations. The old age of the tea plantations has affected yield & quality of tea and has also resulted in increased cost of production. In order to tackle this problem, the Government has already approved the setting up of a Special Purpose Tea Fund (SPTF) under the Tea Board for financing replantation and rejuvenation activities aimed at improving the age profile of tea plantations. The Scheme has been approved for implementation in the first phase till the end of 11th Plan i.e. during the remaining part of 2006-07 and in the 11th Five Year Plan with an estimated outlay of Rs.567.10 crores (subsidy and capital contribution) to be provided by the Government. The estimated area to be taken up for replantation/ rejuvenation during the period would be 85,044 hectares. Under the Scheme, the borrower is required to contribute only 25% of the cost. 50% will be loan from SPTF and 25% subsidy from the Government.